

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 03175 171052Z

43

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-05 FDRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/083 W

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R 170939Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2152

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AO, UN

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN REFUGEES

1. UN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLAN REFUGEES FOLLOWING YEAR'S DISCUSSION HERE WITH FNLA AND THREE MONTHS' DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVISIONAL ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ARE JUST THAT, I.E., EFFORT IS STILL IN DISCUSSION STAGE. UNHCR AND UNDP REPRESENTATIVES IN KINSHASA ATTRIBUTE THIS TO SWITCH IN SIGNALS IN NEW YORK AS TO WHOM TO DEAL WITH FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND TO DIVISIONS AND INEPTITUDES WITHIN PROVISIONAL ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING IMPORTANT FACT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME LIBERATION GROUPS ARE MANEUVERING TO PREVENT EARLY RETURN REFUGEES TO ANGOLA. PLANNED UN INTER-AGENCY MISSION TO ANGOLA HAS BEEN POSTPONED AT LEAST UNTIL END APRIL. THIS PICTURE EMERGES FROM RECENT CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH UNDP RE BENDT BERNANDER AND UNHCR REP ALBERT PETERS.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 03175 171052Z

2. WHILE UNHCR HAS ALLOCATED \$1 MILLION FOR USE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, TO DATE NONE OF THESE FUNDS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. DECISION TO MAKE ALLOCATION WAS MADE AFTER FEBRUARY VISIT OF UNHCR TO LUANDA. WHEN PETERS RETURNED LUANDA IN MARCH TO DEVELOP AND SIGN PROGRAM AGREEMENT REFUGEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED WITH DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION AND UNABLE MEET WITH HIM IN LAST MINUTE MEETING WITH MINISTER SOCIAL AFFAIRS ABRIGADA, PETERS OFFERED TRANSFER \$1 MILLION PROVIDED ABRIGADA WOULD FURNISH LETTER SAYING HE WAS TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WOULD SQUARE MATTERS WITH OTHER ELEMENTS PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. AS OF 15 APRIL THAT LETTER HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED IN GENEVA HEADQUARTERS.

3. IN ADDITION, AT REQUEST PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, UN AGENCIES HAD PLANNED SEND MAJOR MISSION TO LUANDA APRIL 7 BUT THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED AT REQUEST PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. IT NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27 WOULD BE HEADED BY THOMAS LUKE OF UNHCR HEADQUARTERS GENEVA AND INCLUDED AMONGST ITS MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES OF UNICEF, WHO, FAO, WFP, AND UNDP. IT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO STUDY RESETTLEMENT NEEDS AND DEVELOP RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSAL ESTIMATED AT \$15 MILLION ON BASIS INTER-AGENCY REPORT, UN CONTEMPLATES APPEAL TO MEMBERS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. IN MEANTIME, WHILE UN TRIES GET ITSELF ORGANIZED, PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAVE PROVIDED \$8 MILLION WHICH ABRIGADA IS PRESUMABLY USING FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PURPOSES.

4. BOTH PETERS AND BERNANDER STRESSED THAT UN EFFORTS ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT ENTIRELY IN ANGOLA. PETERS SAYS CONTRARY TO USUAL UNHCR PRACTICE THEY DO NOT CONTEMPLATE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO WHAT HE ESTIMATES ARE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE, "PER STRICT UNHCR DEFINITIONS." (HE THINKS TOTAL ANGOLANS HERE MAY BE THREE TIMES THAT NUMBER, WITH UP TO 12 THOUSAND MORE "REAL REFUGEES" IN CONGO (B) AND ABOUT 30 THOUSAND IN ZAMBIA). HE RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KINSHA 03175 171052Z

FINANCIAL, LOGISTICAL AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE IN ZAIRE TO THESE PEOPLE, IF MOST ARE TO RETURN, AS HE THINKS THEY WISH TO, WILL BE REQUIRED. HE REPORTS HOLDEN ROBERTO HAS ASKED MOBUTU FOR HELP AND BEEN TOLD THAT CURRENT GOZ ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES PRECLUDED ASSISTANCE. HE SAYS SOME ANGOLANS IN ZAIRE, PERHAPS 30 THOUSAND SO FAR, HAVE RETURNED BY THEIR OWN MEANS BUT THAT MAJORITY NEED HELP. HE THINKSUN MIGHT CHANGE

POLICY IF GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE MADE REQUEST (APPARENTLY
HE HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS)
BUT HE STILL SEEMED SKEPTICAL THAT UN WOULD OPERATE
HERE. I INDICATED TO HIM AND TO BERNANDERMY
BELIEF US WOULD WANT TO SUPPORT UN PROGRAM BOTH IN
ANGOLA AND TO HELP GET REFUGEES ON WAY BACK FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES.

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